

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended by this paper and new claim 19 has been added by this paper. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8 and 14 and new claim 19 may be found throughout the specification and drawings and, in particular, in Fig. 1.

Claims 1-5, 7, 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 6-307489 to Iwashita (the "Iwashita reference"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As shown in Figs. 1, 6 and 7, the Iwashita reference discloses a flexible rubber moveable plate 10 having a projected portion 10c and an outer peripheral part 10d. The projected portion 10c is received in respective fitting holes to keep the moveable plate 10 centered relative to the storage chamber. As best shown in Fig. 7, the projected portion 10c of the moveable plate 10 extends axially relative to the outer peripheral part 10d and is generally flat.

Inasmuch as the projected portion 10c of the moveable plate 10 is flat (i.e., plateau-like), it cannot be a "node," as required by the pending claims of the present application. Nonetheless, to further clarify the distinction between the claimed central node and the flat projected portion of the Iwashita reference, each of the pending claims of the present application have been amended to specify that the central node has a continuous curvature.

Accordingly, the Iwashita reference cannot, as a matter of law, anticipate the pending claims of the present application.

Claims 6, 8-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Iwashita reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,104,100 to Simuttis (the "Simuttis reference"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

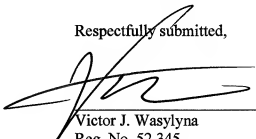
The Simuttis reference discloses a rubber mount with hydraulic damping including a partition 3, as shown in Fig. 1. However, like the Iwashita reference, the Simuttis reference does not teach a generally flat and planar diaphragm having a central node having a continuous curvature positioned generally entirely at the central portion of the diaphragm, wherein the central portion of the diaphragm is spaced apart from the periphery of the diaphragm. Therefore, the combination of the Iwashita and Simuttis references cannot, as a matter of law, render claims 6, 8-13 and 17 obvious. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6, 8-13 and 17 under § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the pending claims of the present application are in

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condition for allowance and formal notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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